

JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

Chairman

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ACADEMY LEADER RETURNS TO GERMANY

Dr. Alfred Schmidt brings to a close ten years of service in Japan on December 29, when he will return to Germany. Dr. Schmidt's Japanese efforts have served the dual purposes of strengthening relationships between churches of Germany and of Japan and of developing the Nippon Christian Academy movement.

Dr. Schmidt will be succeeded in his relationships with the Japan National Christian Council and the United Church of Christ by Pastor W. Graf von Stosch, who came to Japan in 1965 as pastor to the German-speaking community in Tokyo. The Rev. Norbert Klein, study secretary in the Kyoto Academy Movement, will move to Tokyo after the first of the year to become special liaison officer between the Academy Movements of Germany and Japan.

In addition to aiding in the establishment of Academy Houses in Oiso and Kyoto, Dr. Schmidt played an instrumental role in the organization of a Korean Academy Movement, which now has its own Academy House. Plans for similar work aimed at creating encounter between the Church and world are underway in Bangkok and Djakarta, and Academy Teams have already been formed in Taiwan and Hong Kong.

In a parallel accomplishment, Dr. Schmidt helped to develop an exchange program between Japanese and German churches. Since 1957 fifteen Japanese pastors and professors have been invited to Germany for observation and study. An exchange of books and spiritual experience has also been encouraged.

Upon return to Germany Dr. Schmidt will become general secretary for the

Association of European Academies, a group comprised of 50 Academy Houses located throughout the continent. He will also continue to develop relationships with Academy Movements in Asian countries as well as with counterpart programs in Africa and South America.

Dr. Schmidt in a pre-departure interview, terms the Academy Houses at Oiso and Kyoto "instruments of the churches" for encounter between "Christians and non-Christians, and between Christians and modern society". It is a description that fits Dr. Schmidt himself, an "instrument for encounter". JCAN bids "sayonara" to a distinguished friend.

JOINT CHRISTMAS SERVICE AT KYUSHU

A joint Christmas service for citizens of Kitakyushu City is planned by Catholic and Protestant churches of the area. The Rev. Osamu Murakami of the Kyodan's Yahata Tetsumachi congregation is chairman of the preparatory committee.

Planned for the program are short sermons by a local priest and a pastor, plus music by the choir of a Catholic school. Kitakyushu has 40 Protestant and 11 Catholic churches.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHOLARS SEND GIFT TO SOUTH AMERICA

Japanese church school students celebrated Christian Education Week with a rally held on October 22 at Aoyama Gakuin University, Tokyo. Approximately 1,300 children from 113 denominations attended the gathering. After a program of music and speeches they dedicated church school offerings amounting to ¥372,000 (\$1,033) to the use of Japanese missionaries in South America.

JAPANESE SURGEON TO HELP THAI LEPERS

A Japanese surgeon will close his clinic for several months and go, at his own expense, to teach surgery at a leprosarium in Chiangmai, Thailand.

Dr. Toshi Saito, and his wife, Ema, are members of the Shiba United Church of Christ in Japan, Dr. Saito having become a Christian while a student and now serving as a presbyter in the Shiba Church.

Dr. Saito decided to go to Thailand after learning from the director of the Thailand hospital about the serious shortage of doctors trained in surgery.

"Schweitzer's work is not only in Africa," said Dr. Saito. "I have always wanted to do something, and now the time has come."

Mrs. Saito is a trained musician, having studied both in Japan and at Oberlin College Graduate School of Theology.

CATHOLIC-PROTESTANT COOPERATION TAKES FORWARD STEPS

Talks between Roman Catholic and Protestant churchmen, which began in January of this year, have reached the point of concrete plans for joint endeavors, according to announcements following a recent meeting of fifteen representatives of the Catholic Commission on Ecumenicity, the National Catholic Committee, the National Christian Council, and The United Church of Christ in Japan.

In 1968, the annual Japan Christian Yearbook, published since 1910 under the

auspices of the National Christian Council, will be produced as a Protestant-Catholic effort. Heading the editorial committee are Rev. Chuzo Yamada, general secretary, National Christian Council, and Bishop Tadayoshi Tamura, secretary, National Catholic Committee. Co-editors-in-chief are the Rev. Hallam Shorrock, vice president in charge of financial affairs, International Christian University, and Father Joseph J. Spaë, Oriens Institute for Religious Research.

A joint worship service will be held January 21, 1968, at St. Ignatius Church, Tokyo, to mark the Week of Prayer for Church Unity. In preparation for it, Catholic and Protestant representatives will prepare a single version of the Lord's Prayer that can be used by all participating in the service.

One of the most urgent issues which Protestants and Catholics will study together is the current proposal to make the Yasukuni Shrine state-supported institution. Evangelism will be a second important area for joint research.

JAPANESE CHRISTIANS TO SPONSOR PAVILION AT 1970 OSAKA WORLD EXPOSITION

The Japan Christian Council at its October meeting agreed to sponsor a Christian exhibition at the 1970 Osaka World Exposition. The 1970 theme of "Progress and Harmony for Mankind," the Church leaders thought would be especially appropriate for the Japan Church which always has championed the dignity of man.

In consultation with Christian leaders in Osaka, Kyoto and Kobe, the NCC proposed to make the Christian participation on as wide an ecumenical basis as possible and invite the Evangelical Alliance and the Japan Catholic Church to cooperate.

Catholics will study the proposal for cooperation in the operation of a Christian Exhibition at the January meeting of the Catholic Commission on Ecumenicity.

AVACO OFFERS FILMSTRIP ON JAPANESE CHRISTIAN ARTISTS

The Christian Audio Visual Center (AVACO) has for sale a supply of filmstrip-record sets on Christian Japanese artists and their works. Each set includes two color filmstrips, a 12-inch LP record (English language, with original music by Eisai Ikemiya), and English and Japanese scripts. The cost per set is ¥2,500 plus postage.

The first of the set's two filmstrips illustrates an original script on the "Christian Pilgrimage" by Masao Takenaka. The second strip traces the "Life of Christ" by means of 100 frames of oil paintings, sumie, ikebana arrangements, mosaic, sculpture, katazome, watercolors, etc.

Produced by the United Presbyterian Church assisted by AVACO, the sets are the first filmed material on Christian art in Japan. Address orders to: Christian Audio Visual Center, 4-13 Shibuya 4-chome, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo.

MORE FALLOUT ON BILLY GRAHAM CRUSADE by Akiko Yamaguchi

"Christians cannot ignore politics", Dr. R. Chandran said in challenge to Billy Graham during a speech at Tokyo's Yamate Church on October 27. Speaking to an audience of several hundred at a time when Dr. Graham was facing 15,000 at a nearby Military Arts (Budokan) Hall, Dr. Chandran emphasized that no Christian can proclaim the Gospel today without mentioning the Vietnam war and other political

crises. "We cannot keep our hands clean", he asserted, since "Jesus Christ is concerned with the whole human being.

Dr. Chandran, vice chairman of the Church of South India, was in Japan to attend a conference on Vietnam convened by the All Christian Peace Conference.

In other "fallout" over the Billy Graham Crusade of October 20-29, the student union at Tokyo Union Theological Seminary addressed an open letter to Kyodan pastors who supported the crusade. The letter criticized both Dr. Graham's attitude toward the war and the large sum of money expended for the crusade.

A Christian peace group--the Kirisutosha Heiwa no Kai--also issued a statement opposing the crusade. The group criticized Graham on grounds that he allegedly supports the war, and considered the crusade a possible vehicle for cultural invasion by colonialism.

ICU RECEIVEDS MEMORIAL GIFT

Mr. Daisuke Takei, chairman of the Finance Committee at International Christian University has donated ¥100,000 to the school in memory of his late wife, Mrs. Chiyo Takei. Mrs. Takei died on October 19 at the age of 74.

In a letter to ICU's Acting President Hisatake, Mr. Takei enclosed five tanka poems which he wrote during his wife's illness and after her death. The poems speak of Mrs. Takei's life of faith and service.

URBAN-INDUSTRIAL EVANGELISM CONFERENCE TO BE CONVENED

The fourth annual Conference on Urban-Industrial Evangelism to be held under auspices of the Japan National Christian Council will convene at Nagoya on January 17-19. The theme of the 1968 conference will be "Technology, Man and the Church". Lecturers will include Prof. Yoshio Hoshino of Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto, and Prof. Ryunosuke Taniguchi of the Human Relations Center at Kobe.

A feature of the conference will be a tour of the Toyota Motor Company during which a Toyota staff member will address the conference group on the subject, "Technology at Toyota". A visit to Ikoi no Ie, a Lutheran-operated center for younger workers, is also planned.

The conference will begin at 5:00 P.M. on January 17, and close at noon on January 19. The cost of attendance is ¥2,200, including board and room. Since conference capacity is limited, persons planning to attend should make their reservations early by writing to--

L. Stanley Manierre, Director
Urban-Industrial Evangelism Commission
National Christian Council of Japan
2, 4-chome, Ginza
Chuo-ku, Tokyo, Japan

STAFF STATISTICS AT INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

Tokyo's International Christian University has a faculty of 128 full-time and 89 part-time professors, instructors and assistants. Foreigners on the faculty come from Britain, New Zealand, South Africa, Switzerland, Taiwan and the U.S.A.

The American contingent is the largest among foreign groups, with 18 persons. Sixty-seven full-time faculty members are Japanese.

This year ICU's graduate schools have enrolled 120 persons.

JAPAN-KOREA CHURCH PACT RATIFIED

Three Korean churches and The United Church of Christ in Japan have ratified the Document of Agreement for Cooperation in Mission which officials of the four churches drew up at a consultation in Tokyo in July (see Sept. 5 JCAN, No. 312).

With approval of the Document by the respective Assemblies of The Presbyterian Church in Korea, The Methodist Church in Korea, and The Presbyterian Church in Korea, The Methodist Church in Korea, and The Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea, and by the executive committee of the Kyodan, the four Articles of Agreement become the guide for future cooperation in mission.

Three Kyodan representatives will visit Korea in the spring to develop plans in further detail.

DAY OF PRAYER FOR VIETNAM OBSERVED

Foreign missionaries, students and several Japanese attended a one-day study and prayer session focussed on Vietnam, held at Seabury Chapel of International Christian University on Sunday, December 3, 1967.

At the close of the day participants named a committee to plan a Christmas pilgrimage and prayer vigil, and adopted a proposal to establish a periodic bulletin to provide current news and resources.

Considerable discussion was given to the report of a Church and Society Conference, held in Detroit last autumn under the auspices of the NCCUSA. The report outlined concrete methods of expressing convictions and commitments.

Father John F. Clarkson, S.J. presided at the morning worship. Dr. Hallam C. Shorrock, Jr. lectured on Vietnam from the historical perspective. Dr. James M. Franklin and Dr. Robert Blood led afternoon sessions in which alternatives for U.S. Government national policies and possible individual and cooperate actions in support of them were discussed.

EDUCATORS FACE FINANCIAL AND OTHER PROBLEMS by Helen Post

Caught in the increasingly desperate squeeze of rising costs and the prospect of decreasing enrollments, 69 Christian schools' representatives attended a one-day round-table meeting, November 6, in Tokyo. Participating were almost 100 administrators and faculty members from all levels of formal education, elementary through university.

Theme of the annual fall meeting, sponsored by the Education Association of Christian Schools, was "Problems in the Crises that Confront Private Schools."

"Private schools hoist high the spirit of their various founders," said Dr. Sukenaga Murai, dean, Waseda University's School of Science and Technology, in the opening lecture, "but we face a crisis today caused by a shortage of educational personnel committed to these high ideals."

Other critical problems, according to Mr. Murai, are in administration and finance. Since the war, private schools have become almost entirely dependent upon tuition fees. As this problem has become intertwined with administrative matters, the situation has become very complex, he said.

What we want, said Mr. Murai, is some means by which trustees, faculty members,

and the union of staff members can work together from their various positions to achieve the ideals of the school.

Recalling the significant contribution of early Christian schools to the education of women--not merely in producing "good wives and mothers" but in raising the social status of women--Mr. Murai said the challenge today is to understand the mind of the student and to give proper guidance.

In each of the four school-level discussion groups, tuition fees and the relationship of church and school came to the fore. Student dormitories were a concern for the university representatives, while the student body and administration were topics for the junior college group, which includes a number of new schools. At the elementary, junior and senior high school levels, a decrease in number of students, the "base up" in teachers' salaries, and the issue of government subsidies were discussed.

In the closing talk, principal Koichi Oshima, Joshi Gakuin, talked about Relationships between School and Church from the standpoint of a churchman who has only recently become involved in Christian school education.

He stated that a current question for Christian schools today is how to move into stronger relationships with Christian churches, emphasizing that Christian school education that is separated from the Church is apt to become one-sided. He appealed for the creation of a structure through which church schools and churches could share the burden of evangelism in Japan.